

Student unrest is nothing uncommon in European universities. Each generation has protested against the authority of its predecessors. But according to the Communists, this phenomenon cannot exist under Communism: the younger generation should breathe devotion and enthusiasm for the new state. In fact, however, the younger generation finds the Marxist catechism old-fashioned and a bore. The Communist formulation: "freedom consists in doing what you are supposed to want to do" shatters against an older concept of individual freedom.

Any unauthorized organization in a police state must, according to Communist logic, be a conspiracy. The latest proof of this logic comes from news reports on the trial of a tiny group of students at Dresden University, sentenced for "plotting counter-revolution." The most vicious aspects of this alleged "counter-revolution" seem to have been its advocacy of free elections and a free press. Therefore, it is only natural that the court passed sentences more severe than those originally demanded by the prosecution. By coming together and discussing a political program, these students committed a crime by Communist standards. Their youth did not cause the court to look more leniently on them. Itself frightened by the spectre of youth thinking for itself, the court wished to instill fear in the ranks of other young people who might catch the dread disease.